

Craft & Business Association Suriname
CRABASI

Ref: Civil Society

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The craft industry in Suriname has huge economic potential. In the face of the challenges of Free Trade between hemispheric countries, unequal in economic strength and capacity in a liberalized and a globalized world economy the prospects are dim.

The Craft & Business Association Suriname is strongly supporting the goals set by the Caricom Regional negotiating machinery - RNM e.g. to negotiate transition periods for vulnerable industries.

On request of the Government of Suriname and through the RNM, Crabasi is putting forward the following recommendations for the urgent development of a craft industry in Suriname to be implemented effectively in the transition periods negotiated by the RNM and which will contribute to the eradication of poverty.

Recommendations:

1. Secure by all means that the eradication of poverty of the inhabitants of the Caribbean becomes a main issue and objective of the FTAA.
2. Negotiate for authorization of special treatment for the Caribbean Craft industries along with facilitation measures.
3. Prioritize the development of craft entrepreneurs and craft businesses as an internationally recognized tool for poverty alleviation.
4. Mobilize assistance from international institutions specialized in increasing of know-how and information of artisans in sub-sector cooperation, organization of craft production, penetration of markets, research, market oriented design, business incubators, provision of seed capital and working capital.
5. Facilitate linkages and mechanisms with hospitality industries e.g. subcontracting programs and other forms of cooperation.